



## Period 2: Organization and Reorganization of Societies

600 BCE – 600 CE

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## Key Concept 2.2: The Development of States and Empires

- New states and empires compete with each other for land, wealth and security
- Need to govern ethnically/culturally diverse nations
- Some expand too far

# What were the major classical societies?

- ◉ Southwest Asia: Persian Empires
- ◉ East Asia: Qin and Han
- ◉ South Asia: Maurya and Gupta Empires
- ◉ Mediterranean region: Phoenicia, Greek city-states, Hellenistic and Roman Empires
- ◉ Mesoamerica: Maya city-states
- ◉ Andean South America: Moche

# What were major characteristics of “classical societies?”

- ◉ Centralized governments
- ◉ Military power: defensive walls, roads, use of conquered peoples
- ◉ Cities served as centers of trade
- ◉ Social hierarchies
- ◉ Patriarchy
- ◉ Environmental damage
- ◉ Security issues (internal/external)

## Key Concept 2.1: Development and Codification of Religious and Cultural Traditions

- ◉ Codification of Hebrew Scriptures
- ◉ Jewish diasporic communities
- ◉ Sanskrit scriptures and Hinduism – caste system, reincarnation, Brahma
- ◉ New belief systems: Buddha (Ashoka)
- ◉ Confucianism – social harmony, proper roles in society
- ◉ Daoism – balance between humans and nature
- ◉ Christianity (missionaries, merchants, Emperor Constantine)
- ◉ Greco-Roman philosophy and science (Socrates, Aristotle, Plato)
- ◉ Artistic expressions – literature and drama, architectural styles

## Key Concept 2.3: Emergence of Transregional Networks of Communication and Exchange

- Long distance trade increases (luxury goods, raw materials)
- Local networks of trade develop in Americas and Oceania
- Eurasian Silk Roads, Trans-Saharan caravan routes, Indian Ocean sea lanes, Mediterranean sea lanes
- Use of domesticated pack animals

- Innovations in maritime technologies
  - Lateen sail
  - Dhow ships
- Exchange of agricultural techniques, diseases, religious ideas
  - qanat system (irrigation system developed in Persia)
  - The Plague (Rome)



# Suggestions for further study...

- Political, economic, and social characteristics of the empires of Rome, Han China, and Gupta India
- Exchanges in the Indian Ocean vs. those in the Mediterranean Sea
- Expansion and appeal of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity
- Origins, philosophies, and goals of Confucianism and Daoism
- The decline and fall of Han China, Rome, and Gupta India
- Trans-Saharan versus Silk Roads trade